

To: Carey, Curtis[Carey.Curtis@epa.gov]
From: Sanders, LaTonya
Sent: Mon 3/17/2014 5:47:00 PM
Subject: RE: OPA Daily Digest 3/14/14

This is the inquiry on providing an update to congressional staff.

From: Carey, Curtis
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 12:44 PM
To: Sanders, LaTonya
Subject: FW: OPA Daily Digest 3/14/14

LaTonya,

Can you update me on Wagner's inquiry noted below? It says it was due 3/13 but it is open. I wonder if this is the letter they mentioned in the broadcast story we worked Friday?

From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 12:54 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 3/14/14

OPA Daily Digest for 3/14/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Jerry Moran (Kan.) – Letter – 3/14/14: Constituent requests a timely response of a feasibility study for the Former United Zinc and Iron Works site in Iola. Due: 3/27/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

Rep. Ann Wagner (Mo.) – Email – 3/11/14: Requests an update on the West Lake Landfill site. Due: 3/13/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Charles Grassley (Iowa) – Email – 3/11/14: Constituent requests conference call with EPA staff regarding a RCRA permit for a recycling facility in Des Moines. Due: 3/13/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

Rep. Marci Francisco (Ks) – 3/14/14: Question on KS House Bill. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Rep. Bill Otto (Mo) – 3/14/14: Question on the Westlake site. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Press Inquiries:

None

Environmental Stories:

KMOX Radio - Wagner Weighs In On Bridgeton Landfill - 3/14/14 - On Thursday, KMOX talked to Missouri Senator Claire McCaskill about efforts to give the Army Corps of Engineers more control of the Westlake Landfill in Bridgeton and now we've talked to Congresswoman Ann Wagner who says she's just waiting for the Environmental Protection Agency.

<http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2014/03/14/wagner-weighs-in-on-bridgeton-landfill-fire/>

Clean Technica - Noose Tightens Around Fugitive Emissions - 3/14/14 - This week, the US Environmental Protection proposed a new rule for the oil and natural gas industry to report data on greenhouse gas emissions from their operations. If it go into effect as planned next year, the data will go a long way toward settling the question of whether natural gas is a cleaner alternative to oil or coal.

<http://cleantechnica.com/2014/03/14/new-epa-rule-for-fugitive-emissions-from-oil-and-natural-gas/#S3RfALFSkvvT5mBg.99>

Quad City Times - Does your water smell funny? Odor not a health issue, company says - 3/14/14 - Curious why the water smells funny? An Iowa American Water spokeswoman said the odor has to do with an influx of organic material because of recent snow melt in the region. Lisa Reisen, external affairs manager for Iowa American Water, said customers have reported a stronger chlorine taste and odor in their water.

http://qctimes.com/news/local/does-your-water-smell-funny-odor-not-a-health-issue/article_54af41ed-082c-58ee-b6fd-07d0aa9cca36.html

National Hog Farmer - Bill Limits EPA from Releasing Private Information - 3/14/14 - United States Reps. Rick Crawford (R-Ark.), Lee Terry (R-Neb.), Mike McIntyre (D-NC) and Jim Costa (D-Cal.) recently introduced legislation to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from disclosing the private and confidential information of livestock and poultry producers to the public.

<http://nationalhogfarmer.com/environment/bill-limits-epa-releasing-private-information>

Topeka Capital Journal - Did Gov. Sebelius Mandate Higher Electric Rates? - 3/14/14 - This is what the commercial claims: "The RPS was proposed by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and signed into law by Gov. Mark Parkinson in 2009 as part of a comprehensive energy bill that was intended to allow Sunflower Electric to expand their coal-fired power plant in Holcomb, Kan., that was being delayed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment."

<http://cjonline.com/blog-post/lucinda/2014-03-13/did-gov-sebelius-mandate-higher-electric-rates>

Fleet Owner - Future fuel efficiency efforts come into focus - 3/14/14 - More integration between tractor and trailer, more focused training on driver skills, and increased adoption of a wide variety of aerodynamic devices will most likely be the main areas of focus as new fuel efficiency rules begin to take hold of the trucking industry by 2017 and beyond.

<http://fleetowner.com/regulations/future-fuel-efficiency-efforts-come-focus>

Washington Post - Federal charge cards misused at EPA - 3/14/14 - Lax oversight at the Environmental Protection Agency allowed the organization's employees to misuse federal charge cards for buying items such as gym memberships, meals and gift cards, according to a recent watchdog report.

<http://triblive.com/usworld/nation/5762164-74/epa-agency-federal#ixzz2vxK2Ce9V>

Washington Times - Saving trees? EPA wastes \$1.5 million storing unneeded pamphlets in warehouse - 3/14/14 - For an agency with a mission to protect the environment, the EPA sure can waste a lot of paper. That's what investigators found when they inspected a warehouse in Ohio where the Environmental Protection Agency was storing millions of pamphlets and brochures.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/mar/13/saving-trees-epa-wastes-15-million-storing-unneede/#ixzz2vxKMbv9V>

The Wire - EPA Lifts Ban on BP in the Gulf of Mexico - 3/14/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency has lifted a ban on BP, which allows the petroleum company to once again seek oil leases in the Gulf of Mexico. BP sued the EPA to lift the suspension last year.

<http://www.thewire.com/national/2014/03/epa-lifts-ban-bp-gulf-mexico/359165/>

Washington Times - Report: EPA accused of overkill in 'raid' on Alaska gold-mine - 3/14/14 - Last year's Environmental Protection Agency raid on the small gold-mining town of Chicken, Alaska, constituted a clear case of overkill by federal authorities seeking violations of environmental regulations, according to an official review of the controversial incident released Thursday.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/mar/13/report-epa-accused-of-overkill-in-raid-on-alaska-g/#ixzz2vxLVrgsd>

U.S. News and World Report - EPA to Lift Ban Barring BP From New Federal Contracts - 3/14/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency will lift a suspension barring BP from doing some business with the federal government, a ban implemented in November 2012 after the oil giant pleaded guilty in connection with the Deepwater Horizon oil-rig explosion that killed 11 people and emptied millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico in April 2010.

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/03/13/epa-to-lift-ban-barring-bp-from-new-federal-contracts>

Bloomberg - Green Plains: What Fuels This Ethanol Giant - 3/14/14 - Todd Becker, president and CEO of Green Plains Renewable Energy, discusses corn prices and the EPA's 2014 ethanol mandate with Alix Steel on Bloomberg Television's "Taking Stock."
http://www.bloomberg.com/video/epa-to-temper-cut-in-ethanol-mandate-becker-s_L1VrvfQlieB0yfpv3u0A.html

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

3/18-19/14 – RA/DRA Joint Meeting, Denver, Colo., Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

3/20/14 – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – Washburn University, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

3/21/14 – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

3/24/14 – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

3/26/14 – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – University of Lincoln, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

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3/27/14 – Deputy Administrator Bob Perciasepe to Visit Region 7, Regional Office. Contact: Mark Hague, 7546

3/31/14 – Madison and Lila Self Graduate Spring Symposium, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

4/1/14 – Joint EPA/FTA/FHWA Meeting Regarding the Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative, Regional Office. Contact: David Doyle, 7667

4/3/14 – Mid-American Environmental Compliance Conference, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Dave Cozad, 7587

4/22/14 – Sprint WasteWise Event, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

4/30/14 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039

4/30/14 – Westar Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Rebecca Weber, 7487

5/1/14 – Meet with Missouri Department of Agriculture Director, Richard Fordyce, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

DRA:

3/18-19/14 – RA/DRA Joint Meeting, Denver, Colo., Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

4/1/14 - Federal Executive Board & Chamber of Commerce Small Business Networking Event, Kansas City, Mo.
Contact: Chester Stovall 7549

4/1/14 - Federal Executive Board Federal Contracting Do's & Don'ts Workshop, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chester Stovall 7549

4/2/14 - State of Missouri Disparity Study Stakeholder Conference, Kansas City, Mo. Chester Stovall 7549

4/3/14 – US Corps of Engineers' Society of Military Engineers Annual Contracting Conference, Kansas City, Mo.
Chester Stovall 7549

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

3/18-19/14 - National Response Team/Regional Response Team Co-Chairs meeting, Atlanta, Ga. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

4/1-2/14 - Hosting spring Regional Response Team meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

WWPD

3/11-14/14 – Water Quality Standards National Program Meeting, Washington, DC. Contacts: John DeLashmit, 7821, Ann Lavaty, 7370

3/16-18/14 – Nebraska Rural Water Association Conference, Meeting with State Partners on Drinking Water Issues, Grand Island, Neb. Contact: Ken Deason, 7585

3/27-28/14 - Quarterly Drinking Water Coordination Meeting with Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines, Iowa. Contacts: Stan Calow, 7410, Bob Dunlevy, 7798, Scott Marquess, 7131, Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

3/31-4/4/14 - Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act Enforcement Managers and Toxics Enforcement Managers meeting, Seattle, Wa. Contacts: Jamie Green, 7139, Royan Teter, 7609

4/1-2/14 – Regulatory Update Presentation at American Water Works Association Annual Conference, Osage Beach, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

4/28-5/4/14 – Toxic Substances and Control Act Case Development to EPA Regions 1-4 Case Management Officers, Washington, DC. Contact: Maria Morey, 7079

5/5-8/14 – Environmental Leaders Institute State / Tribal / EPA Training Workshop, Shepherdstown, W.Va. Contact: Tabatha Adkins, 7128

5/12-16/14 – National Total Maximum Daily Load/Measures and 303(d) Listing Conference, Denver, Co. Contacts: Tabatha Adkins, 7128, Bruce Perkins, 7067, Debby White, 7886